c. Amendments to the Drawings

The drawing sheet with Figures 1 and 2 is amended to be as shown on the attached Replacement Sheet.

The drawing sheet with Figure 9 is amended to be as shown on the attached Replacement Sheet.

e. **Remarks**

Amendments

At page 3, line 4, "introduces" is replaced by "introduce" to correct an obvious grammar error.

At page 10, line 30, "remove" is replaced by "remote" in conformity with line 26.

At page 11, line 16, reference numeral 38 is deleted.

On the Replacement Sheet for Figures 1 and 2, the bottom margin is enlarged.

In Figure 9, numeral 38 is replaced by 52 to conform to Figure 7 and page 13, lines 5 – 8 and numeral 22 is replaced by 50 to conform to page 13, lines 4, 7, 23, and 25.

The amendment to claim 1 is, e.g., supported at page 3, line 29.

Drawing Objections

Due to the larger bottom margin on the Replacement Sheet for Figures 1 – 2, the objection to the drawings is now moot. For this reason, Applicant requests withdrawal this objection. Applicant requests approval of the drawings on the Replacement Sheets.

Objection to Specification

In light of the deletion of reference numeral 38, at page 11, line 16, Applicant requests withdrawal to the objection to the disclosure.

Claim Rejections

At page 3, the Office Action rejects claims 1 – 2, 4, and 6 – 16 as obvious over a combination of U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0080359 of Denk et al, U.S. Patent 6,795,199 of Suhami and U.S. Patent No. 5,548,113 of Goldberg et al.

The Office Action further states:

> Denk et al. lacks a GRIN lens ... wherein ... the GRIN lens is configured to substantially narrow the optical pulses received from the fiber. Suhami discloses in a similar imagining system include [sic] a GRIN bar and optics 17 right next to it to focus the narrow beam transversely (Col. 9 lines 16-22). ... In view of the narrowed pulse delivered by the GRIN lenses of Suhami and Goldberg et al., which affords a smaller spot on the sample, ...

Office Action, page 3, last line, to page 4, line 9.

That is, the Office Action relies solely on Suhami and Goldberg to teach the narrowing recited in independent claims 1 and 11. In particular, the cited portion of the Office Action states that Suhami teaches "focus[ing] the narrow beam transversely". Suhami, col. 9, lines 22 – 23. The cited portion of the Office Action also implies that Suhami and

Goldberg teach narrowing pulses to produce "a smaller spot on the sample ...." Thus, the Office Action relies on prior art teachings for transverse spatial narrowing of pulses.

In contrast to the cited teachings of Suhami and/or Goldberg, present claims 1 and 11 as presented herein recite temporal narrowing of optical pulses. Such "temporal" narrowing is very different from the "transverse spatial" narrowing described in the cited portion of the Office Action. In particular, temporal narrowing involves narrowing of the optical pulses along their direction of propagation rather than the transverse focusing as described at col. 9, lines 22 – 23 of Suhami.

For the above reason, the Office Action does not provide a prior art teaching for each feature of claim 1 or claim 11 as presented herein. In the absence of a cited prior art teaching for this feature, the obviousness rejections of claims 1 and 11 should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2 – 10 should be non-obvious, at least, by their dependence on amended claim 1.

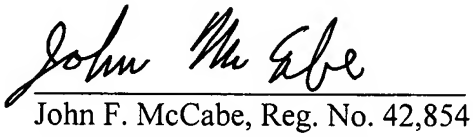
Dependent claims 12 – 16 should be non-obvious, at least, by their dependence on amended claim 12.

Conclusion

Applicants request allowance of claims 1 – 16 as presented herein.

In the event of any non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No. 12-2325** to correct the error.

Respectfully,



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Date: Feb. 22, 2006
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